

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

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R 190611 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 096604

EXDIS

FOR SULLIVAN AND ALDRICH

FOLL SNT ACTION SECSTATE INFO DAO SAIGON COMUSSAG CINCPAC
BIEN HOA NHA TRANG PHNOM PENH CAN THO FROM SAIGON 17 MAY 73
REPEDATED TY YOU QUOE

S E C R E T SAIGON 8687

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: AIRSTRIKE COORDINATION

REF: CAN THO 317 (NOTAL)

1. DURING CALL OF MAJOR GENERAL COOKSEY ON MILITARY REGION
IV COMMANDER NGHI, REPORTED REFTTEL, SUBJECT OF DIRECT
COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ARVN AND US AIRCRAFT CARRYING
OUT AIR STRIKES IN CAMBODIA NEAR SVN BORDER WAS RAISED
BY GENERAL NGHI. MAJOR GENERAL COOKSEY CORRECTLY
REAFFIRMED TO GENERAL NGHI THAT ANY CHANGE IN CURRENT
PROCEDURES WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT WITH EMBASSY SAIGON.

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2. TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE COORDINATION OF AIRSTRIKES IN CAMBODIA
WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE FOLLOWING
PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN DETERMINED:

A) THE HEADQUARTERS CONCERNED (IN THIS CASE GENERAL
NGHI'S HEADQUARTERS) FORWARDS TARGET INFORMATION AND AIR
STRIKE REQUESTS THROUGH VIETNAMESE CHANNELS TO JGS IN SAIGON;

B) JGS CONSIDERS REQUEST AND IF APPROVED PASSES IT TO USDAO;

C) USDAO THEN TRANSMITS APPROVED REQUEST TO USSAG
FOR COORDINATION WITH GKR THRU AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH AND
FOR FINAL DECISION.

3. THIS PROCEDURE APPLIES TO ALL AIRSTRIKE COORDINATION, INCLUDING
B-52'S AND F-111'S. CONGEN PERSONNEL SHOULD PLAY NO PART IN THE
PROCESS. THEY SHOULD, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO ALERT EMBASSY AND
DAO TO UNEXPECTED SITUATIONS WHICH MAY COME TO THEIR ATTENTION.

4. REGARDING F-111 BEACON ON SOUTH VIETNAMESE SIDE OF CAMBODIAN
BORDER NEAR HONG NGU, WE REGARD THIS AS PASSIVE LOCATOR DEVICE
AND THUS WITHIN CEASEFIRE RULES. HOWEVER, SAME WOULD NOT REPEAT
NOT APPLY TO DIRECT CONTACT BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY WITH US
AIRCRAFT ON CAMBODIAN SIDE OF THE BORDER, AS SUGGESTED PARA 8
OF REFTEL. AS REFTEL POINTS OUT, THIS WOULD BORDER ON JOINT
OPERATIONS WITH USAF IN CAMBODIA AND WOULD IN OUR VIEW
CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THE CEASEFIRE.

5. OUR PRINCIPAL CONCERN IN THIS MATTER IS TO FURTHER CLOSE AND
EFFECTIVE COORDINATION WHILE AVOIDING ANY VIOLATION OF THE PARIS
AGREEMENT OF JANUARY 27 EITHER BY THE U. S. OR BY THE GVN. IN
THIS CONNECTION WE ARE CONCERNED THAT CONSULATE GENERAL AND
EMBASSY PERSONNEL NOT REPEAT NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN MILITARY
ADVICE OR IN MILITARY PLANNING WHICH WOULD, OF COURSE, BE
VIOLATION OF THE CEASEFIRE.

6. FOR BIEN HOA AND NHA TRANG: ALTHOUGH MILITARY REGIONS
II AND III HAVE NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN COORDINATION OF AIR STRIKES
IN CAMBODIA NEAR VIETNAMESE BORDER, SHOULD THIS HAPPEN YOU
SHOULD BE GUIDED BY FOREGOING.

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WHITEHOUSE UNQUOTE RUSH

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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